

DHH 1

Office of State Budget and Management
Establish New, Receipt-Supported Positions
 (G.S. 143-34.1)

Agency: Dept of Health and Human Services

Division: Services for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing

Budget Code: 67425

Center Title: Wireless

Center Number: 6726

***** Position Information *****

Proposed Classification: Interpreter for the Deaf I **Proposed Salary Grade:** 64

Salary Range: \$26,830 - \$39,902 **Proposed Effective Date:** 01 / 01 / 06

Number of Positions: 1

Center Authorized Budget

Current Request

Total Budget	\$784,133	\$42,048
Receipts	\$784,133	\$42,048
Appropriation	\$ 0	\$ 0

Funding Source(s): Wireless Connections Surcharge Receipts

Justification for Position (including description of duties and responsibilities): The Division's statutory mission includes the distribution of specially-designed telecommunications and emergency alerting equipment to eligible Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind North Carolinians and outreach to promote awareness of resources for achieving equal access to the telecommunications system and other community resources.

As a result of the Division's recent and ongoing extensive outreach endeavors, there has been an overwhelming increase in the demand for services, far outstripping staff capacity to meet the demand. The level of demand for services is anticipated to remain significantly high. Despite the increased public awareness, only less than 5% of all eligible North Carolinians to date have received needed equipment. North Carolina has over 1 million people with hearing loss. Clearly, there is a need for an extensive outreach program.

Because many of our staff members in the Division's Telecommunications Access of NC (TANC) program and the program's customers are Deaf and communicate via American Sign Language, we have been utilizing the services of sign language interpreters on contract with our Division. This is a cost-prohibitive approach for two reasons: 1) approximately \$25,000 in the last 7 months has been spent on interpreter services provided approximately 20 hours per week, and 2) an Office Assistant has been spending an inordinate amount of time scheduling interpreter services at the expense of her normal duties. Therefore, we need a full-time sign language interpreter on our staff.

Duties and Responsibilities:

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- Providing direct interpreter services for exhibit booths at conferences, presentations, equipment demonstration events, planning/coordination meetings and trainings.
- Schedule additional interpreters for situations calling for more than one interpreter.
- Schedule interpreters for two major vendors on contract with the Division to provide Relay services and distribute equipment.
- Assist the TANC Administrator in the planning and coordination of outreach endeavors.
- Assist in special projects pertaining to communication access and outreach as assigned.

Statutory Reference for Request: G.S. 62-157, G.S. 143B-216.33

The requested amount will cover salary of \$33,366 and fringes of \$8,682. No estimates for equipment, supplies, etc. for each position are included.

Jim Slate

Presentation to be made by

Interim Director, B & A

Title

Jim Slate
Agency Head Signature

David O'Leary
State Budget Officer Signature

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